GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1198
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
PROJECTS UNDER AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects being implemented under the Area Development Programmes have been evaluated during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether these projects have been completed in time;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete the projects in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) The Department of Land Resources is implementing three area development programmes viz. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme(DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme(IWDP) on watershed basis. Evaluation on the sample basis was being done at instance of this Department by the International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics(ICRISAT), Hyderabad.

(b) As per interim report from ICRISAT in the sample projects taken for evaluation, it has been observed that across various States, there has been reduction in degraded and wastelands, increases in irrigated areas, enhancement of agricultural productivity.

(c) While large number of projects have been completed in time, there are also projects which are ongoing beyond the stipulated project period.

(d) About 43% of the projects due for completion have been completed. Balance projects are at various stages of implementation. The reasons for delay in execution of the projects are late start of the projects by the Project Implementing Authorities in the Districts, conflict at the village level, late release of matching share by the State Governments etc.

(e) The Department has reviewed time to time very closely in regional meetings with State Governments, sending area officers to various States, ensuring online monitoring and pursuing the matter with States for timely completion of the projects.